

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re: :  
IN RE NEW YORK CITY POLICING : Docket #20cv8924  
DURING SUMMER 2020 DEMONSTRATIONS :  
: New York, New York  
: July 21, 2021  
----- : TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE  
THE HONORABLE GABRIEL W. GORENSTEIN,  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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None

E X H I B I T S

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>In</u>	<u>Voir Dire</u>
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THE CLERK: This is In Re: New York City  
Policing During Summer 2020 Demonstrations 20cv8924.

Counsel, please state your appearances for the  
record, starting with plaintiff.

MR. DOUGLAS LIEB: Good afternoon, your Honor.  
Douglas Lieb for plaintiff, Wood, and speaking on behalf of  
consolidated plaintiffs at this conference.

MS. JENNVINE WONG: Good afternoon, your Honor.  
Legal Aid Society, Jennvine Wong for Payne plaintiff.

MX. REMY GREEN: This is Remy Green from Cohen &  
Green for the Sow plaintiffs.

MR. ANDREW STOLL: And good afternoon, your  
Honor. It's Andrew Stoll, Stoll, Glickman & Bellina, for  
Cameron Yates.

MS. LILLIAN M. MARQUEZ: And this is Lillian  
Marquez from the New York State Attorney General's Office  
for the People.

MR. ROB RICKNER: This is Rob Rickner, Rickner  
PLLC, for the Sierra plaintiffs.

HONORABLE GABRIEL W. GORENSTEIN (THE COURT): For  
defendants?

MS. DARA WEISS: This is Dara Weiss from the New  
York City Law Department for defendants.

THE COURT: Okay, we're continuing from

1  
2 yesterday. Mr. Lieb or Ms. Weiss, is there an agreement,  
3 proposal, anything?

4 MR. LIEB: Your Honor, I would say there's some of  
5 both. So the parties met and conferred for about an hour  
6 and a half earlier this afternoon. We reached agreement on  
7 some of the logistical areas, which I'm happy to sort of  
8 memorialize here for the Court. And then there was some  
9 agreement as to document production, and then there were  
10 some areas of disagreement as to which plaintiffs have a  
11 proposal for the Court.

12 So with respect to the areas of agreement, it's as  
13 follows. The parties agree that, starting on August 9th,  
14 we're going to endeavor to try and get through these  
15 approximately 44 line-level officer depositions in five  
16 weeks, which obviously will require double-tracking, to  
17 some extent. And on a weekly basis, beginning at the end  
18 of next week, the defendants are going to provide a single  
19 date for a batch of approximately ten officers, with the  
20 obvious understanding that we need to fill up the earlier  
21 dates first in order to keep the schedule at a pace where  
22 we can get this done. Those are going to be real dates  
23 that have actually been cleared with the officers in  
24 advance to make sure that they're available. We will --  
25 we, the plaintiffs, will confirm or indicate unavailability

1 with respect to those dates within 24 hours. If there's a  
2 cancellation by the defense of any of those confirmed  
3 dates, they're going to let us know a specific reason why,  
4 with the exception of obviously not intruding upon a  
5 deponent's personal privacy. If it's a personal reason,  
6 they'll just say it's a personal reason. And a new date  
7 for the cancelled deponent will be provided in short order.  
8 We had asked that there be a new date provided within 24  
9 hours; we didn't reach agreement on that specific point,  
10 but there was conceptual agreement that a new date should  
11 be provided promptly. Additionally, the defendants will  
12 endeavor to have the officers in front of computers with  
13 chargers, with sufficiently large screens that they can  
14 both be seen, readily visible, and easily view documents  
15 that are screen-shared with them.  
16

17 With respect to the four depositions between this  
18 moment and July 31st, which is the document deadline,  
19 tomorrow's is proceeding by agreement; the other three we  
20 owe defendants an answer on that depends upon hearing from  
21 counsel, who's simply out of pocket today, and will provide  
22 that to defendants in short order. So that is the sort of  
23 logistical area of agreement.

24 With respect to documents, my understanding is  
25 that we have agreement as to the following -- or documents

1 and information. Number one, there are some officers who  
2 are on the list who have been identified by description.  
3 Obviously, the defendants are going to provide their names  
4 and tax ID numbers in advance of the deposition. The  
5 defendants, my understanding, are going to be producing  
6 CCRB histories, IAB histories, and CGIs for the deponents  
7 in, as I understand it, a batch, with the expectation that  
8 that batch is going to be coming before the August 9th  
9 commencement of this set of depositions, so to speak.  
10

11 There's also agreement that the defendants are  
12 going to ensure that any body-worn camera footage recorded  
13 by a deponent is going to be identifiable in some manner.  
14 There's a little bit of an open question, slight  
15 disagreement, about to what extent that is already true.  
16 But I have optimism that the parties can work that out.  
17 But that to the extent it is not already identifiable by  
18 essentially file name or Bates number, that the defendants  
19 will identify it by file name or Bates number. But the  
20 parties will work on that discrete sub-issue.

21 The defendants have also committed to producing no  
22 later than the day before the deposition but, you know, in  
23 reality, contemporaneously with the preparation of the  
24 witness or, you know, promptly thereafter, the activity log  
25 of the deponent for the, what you might call the subject

1 protest. So if that person was an arresting officer in  
2 Mott Haven, that would be what I mean when I say the  
3 subject protest.  
4

5 That leads us, really, your Honor, to the area of  
6 disagreement and the place where, you know, the plaintiffs  
7 have a proposal to the Court. So the area of disagreement  
8 is as follows. The way plaintiffs believe this should work  
9 is we, at the very beginning of the case, there had been an  
10 interrogatory which had attached to it a Schedule A.  
11 Schedule A is not before the Court, but when I say  
12 Schedule A, the parties know what I'm talking about, which  
13 is a list of 83 protest locations with dates and locations  
14 that are the protests, more or less, that are the subject  
15 of these consolidated proceedings. Our proposal is that  
16 when they prepare their witnesses, the defendants should  
17 identify to us which of the protests on Schedule A those  
18 deponents were at. They should pull the activity logs of  
19 those officers for those dates, produce those to us. To  
20 the extent that the officers made an arrests, wrote any  
21 summonses, wrote any DATs, they should produce those. And  
22 then they should go look up if there are any arrest  
23 reports, aided reports, TRI reports that are in an  
24 electronic database that's searchable by officer name and  
25 date for those protest locations to which the officer



1  
2 responded. Then to the extent they haven't already been  
3 produced, they should produce them to us.

4           Now, obviously, there's been a representation that  
5 we should have all of this by July 31st, but we don't know  
6 what we don't know, and so -- and as we had the experience  
7 that, you know, we discussed with your Honor but with  
8 Officer Jeanpierre -- obviously, officers have some of  
9 these materials in their own personal possession, and so  
10 it's important that there be an effort to ensure not just  
11 that it's somewhere in this, you know, thousands upon  
12 thousands of documents that were gathered *en masse* by the  
13 NYPD, but that there's an actual double-checking with the  
14 individual officer who's sitting there in front of counsel  
15 preparing for the deposition, that that individual  
16 officer's documents have in fact been produced. We've set  
17 forth just now the way that that can be done very easily by  
18 asking him a few questions, looking at their activity logs  
19 and checking some electronic databases; and to the extent  
20 necessary, the production should be supplemented.

21           So that's where we have the disagreement because  
22 the defendants have expressed that it is in their view  
23 unduly burdensome to identify which of the protests these  
24 officers attended and to, you know, contemplate addressing  
25 any documents for anything other than, you know, the

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protest at which the deponent was, for example, the  
arresting officer.

So there are basically three reasons why we think  
this is extremely important. The first is this is  
simply -- first of all, it's factual information that is  
within the knowledge of the City and can readily be  
ascertained by just asking the witness who's being prepped,  
sitting in front of counsel -- so you know, just as a  
factual matter, we're entitled to know it. We tried to get  
it by interrogatory; the City didn't answer that  
interrogatory. But we're entitled to know that  
information.

Second of all, it's going to help a lot with  
scheduling because if we know that someone was in Mott  
Haven, you know, someone who is from a Mott Haven-related  
case will make an effort to be present. If we don't know  
that, they're not going to have to make an effort to be  
present. But it's going to result in a much more efficient  
conduct of the depositions to actually know in advance,  
okay, this officer was at these three or four protests.  
We're going to be asking this officer about these three or  
four protests; we have his activity logs in front of us;  
we're going to conduct the questioning in an efficient  
manner, as opposed to spending the first thirty minutes of

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the deposition showing him Schedule A on the screen and asking him to go line by line and tell us which of the protests he had attended, which is what we've been doing. Because, obviously, we're entitled to that information; we're entitled to take the officers' testimony about, you know, any relevant knowledge they may have. And this is a much, much more efficient, effective way of doing it.

So the proposal for the Court that we have is that the defendants identify which of the protests on Schedule A the officer attended, ensure that any arrest reports, aided reports, CRI reports, DATs, summonses, body-worn camera footage, activity logs from those protests have already been produced. If they been produced, great; if not, supplement the production in advance of the deposition. And then we'll be able to conduct the questioning of the officers in a much more focused, directed and efficient manner.

The last sort of freestanding, I think, area of I wouldn't say dispute but nonresolution concerns NYPD Academy transcripts, which you might refer to as training transcripts. So we had proposed --

THE COURT: And I interrupt you for a second, Mr. Lieb?

MR. LIEB: By all means, your Honor.

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2 THE COURT: Is this the academy transcripts in  
3 relation to depositions, or is it a totally separate issue?

4 MR. LIEB: No, it is in relation to the  
5 depositions, your Honor. It is the training that the  
6 deponent received. So there is a publicly-available --

7 THE COURT: You're including this in the list of  
8 documents along with the activity log and the body-camera  
9 footage that you want in advance; is that what's going on?

10 MR. LIEB: Yes, your Honor, but it just -- it  
11 comes by slightly different means, so I think it sort of --  
12 and the parties are in a slightly different posture with  
13 respect to it, so it's kind of a separate point.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.

15 MR. LIEB: So, you know, knowing what training  
16 officers received in the areas that we're talking about --  
17 obviously, you know, as the Court pointed out yesterday, so  
18 the extent of the adequacy or inadequacy of the training  
19 these individuals received and how it may have informed the  
20 conduct that they engaged in on the days in question is  
21 obviously part of our Monell claim; it's a central part of  
22 the case. And so there are publicly-available NYPD  
23 training summaries that are incomplete and just generally  
24 not reliable. This document that we're talking about, it's  
25 like the equivalent of your college transcript from the

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NYPD Academy, so to speak. And we had tried to provide an exemplar to counsel earlier today but realized that we could not do so, consistent with the Protective Order in the case in which that document had been produced. So the parties weren't really able to full exhaust the discussion on this point, which is why I raise it separately. But this is the other document that we think should be produced with respect to each deponent in advance of the deposition.

THE COURT: Okay. And just so I have the list of documents that you think is at issue, that's disputed, one is the activity log?

MR. LIEB: Your Honor, the defendants have agreed to produce the activity log for, for example --

THE COURT: No, I'm sorry, I should say -- I meant it's for -- I should back up. With respect to the -- you want them to have the deponent identify the protest locations in advance of the deposition in some way and then produce the activity log for those dates; is that right?

MR. LIEB: That is correct. And the defendants have --

THE COURT: And the body cameras?

MR. LIEB: Yes.

THE COURT: Finish your sentence.

MR. LIEB: The defendants have agreed to produce

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the activity logs just for, for example, you know, if my arresting officer was a named defendant for Mott Haven on June 4th, only that date, not necessarily other dates on which he's responded to other protests that are at issue in the litigation. That's the specific disagreement --

THE COURT: Okay. But I'm just trying to structure --

MR. LIEB: -- with respect to --

THE COURT: -- I'm just trying to structure what the disagreement is. So as you need them to identify the protest locations and provide the activity log, even if they weren't the arresting officer?

MR. LIEB: Correct.

THE COURT: I'm just trying to list the categories under there so I know what's at issue. I also have body camera footage, right, for whatever he got identified.

MR. LIEB: Correct.

THE COURT: Before we get to transcripts, is there anything else on that list?

MR. LIEB: Yes, your Honor. So there are summonses or DATs or OLDS reports prepared by the officers with respect to any arrests --

THE COURT: What are OLDS reports?

MR. LIEB: They're computerized -- that's the

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2 NYPD's, you know, computer online booking system. So  
3 it's -- I don't know exactly how to describe what it is,  
4 but it is a report prepared by the officer in that database  
5 that pertains to, you know, the arrest or the complaint or  
6 the summons that the officer was pursuing on the date in  
7 question.

8 THE COURT: Okay. What else --

9 MR. LIEB: An electronic [indiscernible] database  
10 [indiscernible].

11 THE COURT: All right, what else in that category?

12 MR. LIEB: TRI reports and aided reports, your  
13 Honor.

14 THE COURT: I know what an aided report has to do  
15 with the medical care. What's a TRI report?

16 MR. LIEB: It's a Threat, Resistance and Injury  
17 report, I believe, is what TRI stands for. It's a use of  
18 force related report.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And then transcripts.

20 MR. LIEB: Yes, for the Training Academy, yes.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Were you done?

22 MR. LIEB: Yes, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: All right, Ms. Weiss?

24 MS. WEISS: Okay, after our meet-and-confer, I  
25 had an opportunity to speak with my team over here. And we

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agree for the sake of efficiency because we are certainly hoping that these depositions of line officers don't have to take an entire day, that when we do prep our officers for deposition, that we're happy to show them the list of 83 protests, this Exhibit A, and see if they're -- and I believe the list has dates and locations -- and see if they're able to recall if they were present, policing any of those demonstrations. And to the extent that they recall being there, they can certainly, you know, pull up their activity report, their mem -- which would be what they now call the memo book entry. And we can provide that to plaintiffs' counsel. That is not a problem. That's not any burden at all.

Plaintiffs had indicated that they would want that 72 hours prior to the deposition. We can't guarantee that it's going to be 72 hours before, because we don't always prep the officers 72 hours before; but it would be, you know, at or about the time that we prep them, you know, pretty much immediately after the prep is over. It could be a day before, it could be two days before, just depending on scheduling.

To the extent that the officer doesn't recall being at a particular demonstration, then we can't -- you know, we can't tell them. We can't -- the same way, you



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2 know, plaintiffs -- plaintiffs have the rosters. We  
3 provide the rosters for every demonstration, so you know,  
4 they can tell from that, if they choose to go through them,  
5 what officers were assigned to any demonstration. So, you  
6 know, if they want --

7 THE COURT: Wait, wait, wait, wait. Stop for a  
8 second. Are you saying that for all 83 protests in  
9 Schedule A, you know which officers -- someone has written  
10 down which officers were there, and that's available?

11 MS. WEISS: No, which officers were assigned to  
12 that demonstration. It doesn't necessarily mean that that  
13 officer was there or that different officers who were not  
14 on the detail rosters were not there.

15 THE COURT: Wait, wait. I couldn't understand the  
16 last thing you said; it doesn't mean --

17 MS. WEISS: So the detail rosters show the  
18 officers who were assigned there. There could have been  
19 additional officers who were not originally assigned there  
20 that could have shown up to a protest.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Hold on. Let me just think for  
22 a second. I mean, it seems like somebody -- I'm not saying  
23 it should be the defendants -- maybe it should be the  
24 plaintiffs -- should for any deponent know at least which  
25 protests they were supposed to be at, you know. And that

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might go a long way to someone getting this information,  
no? I mean, I agree that the officer might -- an officer  
might not have been assigned but then after looking at a  
list, saying, yeah, I got there later or got there even  
though I wasn't on the list, and then we're back in the  
same problem. But can't we at least obviate the ones that  
we do know about?

MR. LIEB: Your Honor, two points, I think.  
Number one is the way these detail rosters work is, you  
know, it's for essentially a preplanned event, right, where  
someone's tour is that they're going to be detailed to this  
location. And so in the real world of how these situations  
unfold, it doesn't actually say whether someone actually  
showed up at any particular protest location; it just  
indicates that, you know, people are going to be detailed  
to a particular area on a particular day, which number one,  
they may or may not, depending on how events unfold; but  
more critically, you know, particularly when we're talking  
about mass arrest processing, you're going to have officers  
from lots of other precincts who are responding to actually  
process. So it's --

THE COURT: Okay. If it doesn't get us  
anywhere --

MR. LIEB: I take the point that we should look at

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them, but it doesn't get us to the finish line or particularly close.

MR. LIEB: And the other thing I would say, I think the easiest way to actually ascertain where the officers were is for the officers, if they thumb through their activity log on their phone for 15 minutes and, you know, [indiscernible] the activity log will tell them whether they were in, you know, Williamsburg on June 5th, for argument's sake, or if they were, you know, at some other location entirely. Right? So the officer can just thumb through his or her activity logs on their phone and pretty quickly -- obviously assuming the activity logs are accurate -- you know, figure out where they were on those dates.

MS. WEISS: It's not --

THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Weiss -- Ms. Weiss, I interrupted you, so you can pick up where you left off.

MS. WEISS: Okay. Thank you. So as I was saying, we're more than happy to have the officers look at the list and see if they recall being at any of these demonstrations. To have them look through their activity logs is overly burdensome. It's not a matter of thumbing through a few pages; it's looking through seven months' worth of logs, which is certainly going to be more than 15

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minutes. It's not -- they can't just search them for a location; it's quite a burdensome process. One or two, yes. One or two officers, yes. But if we're prepping ten officers a week for deposition, it's burdensome for the officers, and it's burdensome for our attorneys.

So we're more than happy to do it for the officers for the demonstrations that they recall being at. I expect that a number of these officers will recall being at a number of demonstrations; but, other than that, you know, defendants object strongly to providing this material for other demonstrations.

THE COURT: I'm just -- it doesn't quite make sense to me. I mean, it seems like this is a, I guess -- let me think about this. You know, it's very hard for me to visualize. The demonstrations are over the course of seven months, is that what you're telling me?

MS. WEISS: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: The 83 --

MS. WEISS: Between May and January.

THE COURT: But are officers sent across boroughs?

MS. WEISS: They could be, yes, absolutely. You can have Queens officers respond to a demonstration in Manhattan or vice-versa.

THE COURT: And the only way to link -- the only

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document that links these officers to a particular protest apparently is not the rosters; the only document is this activity log?

MS. WEISS: I mean, a document like an arrest report would show that an officer made a particular arrest; but you would have to know the arrest report that you were looking at.

THE COURT: Well, you're producing arrest reports, are you not?

MS. WEISS: Yes. I think they're being produced with today or tomorrow's production. But there are thousands of arrest reports.

THE COURT: Well, I'm not saying you necessarily should do this, but my question is are the arrest reports -- I guess that's not the universe of officers with knowledge because --

MS. WEISS: No.

THE COURT: -- an officer might have been present and not appear on an arrest report.

MS. WEISS: Absolutely. Your Honor, there is no one document or one type of document that would show every officer who responded to a particular demonstration. It would be, I guess, a number of documents put together would show most -- hopefully, most of the officers who responded.

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But there is no one overall type of document that would list every officer.

THE COURT: I'm just thinking about this. I assume the officers work an average of five days or, say, twenty days a month, right?

MS. WEISS: During the protests, I'm sure that most of them worked more over the summer with the curfew and COVID and a lot of officers being out sick due to the pandemic. Most of them worked a huge amount of overtime. So I would certainly say that they worked a lot more than that.

THE COURT: And how long is the entry for a day, typically?

MS. WEISS: I don't know.

THE COURT: I mean, I've seen them; sometimes it's four lines.

MS. WEISS: And sometimes it could be four pages. But, you know, they're not the written memo books that maybe you've seen before, your Honor. They're all electronic and on their department phones.

THE COURT: And they have to type them on their phones?

MS. WEISS: Yes.

THE COURT: Well, that suggests they're not going

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2 to be very lengthy.

3 MR. LIEB: Your Honor, I have a brief point about  
4 the logistics of this, if I may be heard at some  
5 opportunity?

6 THE COURT: Yes.

7 MR. LIEB: So, while it is true that the 83  
8 protests cover a long period of time, I have Schedule A in  
9 front of me, and items 1 through 60 on the list are just  
10 from May 28, 2020, to June 8, 2020, because as it seems  
11 perhaps obvious, this protest activity was highly  
12 concentrated in the days immediately following the murder  
13 of George Floyd, And then there are what I would --

14 THE COURT: What are the dates you gave me, May  
15 what?

16 MR. LIEB: One through 60 are May 28th through  
17 June 8th.

18 THE COURT: June -- so hold on. I couldn't hear  
19 you. June 5th?

20 MR. LIEB: June 8th.

21 THE COURT: June 8th. Go ahead.

22 MR. LIEB: And then for, you know, protest numbers  
23 61 through 83, which I guess are 23 additional protests,  
24 there --

25 THE COURT: It this document filed somewhere?

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MR. LIEB: Not in connection with the most recent applications, and I can't say --

THE COURT: No, no, anywhere, anywhere in the docket.

MR. LIEB: Not to the best of -- somewhere, yes, but I couldn't tell the Court where. I apologize.

THE COURT: I think my chambers emails to you folks with dial-in information -- and the chambers email is not public, but do you have it, and can you just email it to me right now? I'd just like to look at it.

MX. GREEN: Your Honor, this is Remy Green. I will send it right now.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. LIEB: The overall point being, though, that the vast majority of these protests are compressed within a very short time period with then isolated dates over the course of the next six months thereafter. And so the burden is not in fact looking through seven months; it's really looking through eight days plus a couple -- you know, 23 other random dates.

THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to look at the document as soon as it arrives. But, Ms. Weiss, it seems like it would be, as a compromise, not unreasonably burdensome to ask them to look through those ten days and



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then use their memory on the rest of it.

MS. WEISS: That sounds reasonable, your Honor. But then it takes us onto the next part of the equation where plaintiffs are then asking that we provide all the other documentation with respect to any of the protests that these officers may have attended. And I just want to point out that plaintiffs will have all of these documents, arrest reports, TRI reports, aided reports, the gamut of documents, by the time defendants are finished producing documents by the 31st of this month. So there's no need to produce them again prior to the depositions of these officers. A number of the arrest reports --

THE COURT: They're searchable by the officer's name?

MS. WEISS: I don't know a lot about the technology, but I do know that they are produced in a searchable format. I don't know what the details of --

THE COURT: Mr. Lieb, I was going to ask the same question before I heard Ms. Weiss say that. If you're getting all this material in advance, why should the City have to, you know, essentially do your work by looking to see the involvement of the particular officer in a particular production and produce that to you again?

MR. LIEB: Your Honor, if it is the case that --

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you know, if Officer Smith was at the June 5th protest in -- near the Barclays Center, and if it is actually in fact the case that those -- that that officer's arrest reports and summonses are included within the production that we received by July 31st, by the end of next week, essentially, that then that is one thing. I think the issue that we're having is that we know from our experience in other cases and from a deposition just last week, that officers maintain these records in their personal possession, and officers have knowledge of what they did and did not do. And we don't. Right? So the only way we have of knowing --

THE COURT: Stop for a second. When you say "in their possession," what is it you learned at the deposition, that they're sitting in their locker, on their phone; what are you talking about?

MR. LIEB: Yeah, so this is from, I guess -- I think at this point it was last week's deposition of Officer Jeanpierre, you know, he testified that he maintained, you know, his own personal file of the DATs and summonses and related materials that he had himself issued. So that was the example to which I'm referring.

THE COURT: Okay. I think --

MR. LIEB: I mean, I think --

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THE COURT: Hold on, Mr. Lieb. I mean, we don't know if this is a regular habit, but it's certainly -- I'm sure Ms. Weiss would agree -- no burden for them to tell their officers if you have any documents relating to any of the protests or arrests at the protests, bring it with you to the prep session, and they would supply those documents.

MS. WEISS: Absolutely.

THE COURT: After reviewing. So if we did that, then where are we?

MR. LIEB: Then where we are, your Honor, is that we don't know what we don't know. And, you know, obviously, the document production has not yet occurred, and we're not in a position yet to, you know, really dig in and assess its completeness. And so our thought was that, for the sake of conducting the depositions in an efficient manner that, you know, querying the database for the officer's name one time before the officer sits to ensure that that production was complete and ensure that those reports had in fact been produced was much better than us showing up to the deposition and hearing that the officer issued a summons on X date and then us saying, "Well, actually, we've been -- you know, we searched thousands upon thousands of documents that were produced to us, and there is no summons for that officer on that date." So --

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THE COURT: I got confused because you talked about -- I'm trying to figure out what exactly you're asking them to do as a practical matter. And then you talked about searching something. What is it you're talking about?

MR. LIEB: My understanding is that arrest reports, complaint reports and all of the S-reports are maintained in an electronic database that is searchable by officer name. And so what we're asking them to do -- as well as the bodycam footage, which is a separate point -- but what they're asking them to do is just once they know that, okay, this officer was at Point A, Point B, and Point C and made arrests at those three places, just go look for those arrest -- that arrest-related paperwork to make sure that it has in fact been produced.

THE COURT: Okay. So let me ask the City. It seems to me -- obviously, you have access to this database and those -- do you know what database is being referred to?

MS. WEISS: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. Obviously, you have access and the plaintiffs don't. I would think --

MS. WEISS: No, plaintiffs have access to everything we have produced on this database.

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THE COURT: Right. I understand that. I mean, I guess it comes down to how much risk you want to take, Ms. Weiss, because if it turns out -- this is the way I would do it, I would think. But let me give you two choices. If you say, you know what, that search was done; the arrests for that officer have been produced, you know, all the AB, TRI, aided reports, I guess -- I don't know, does it have the DATs and summonses, too? Is it all in one database?

MS. WEISS: Every -- it should. I mean, by the time everything is produced, it will have all of those documents to --

THE COURT: No, no, I'm talking -- I'm imagining a database where we put in Officer Jane Doe, and it comes up with the arrests for Jane Doe in this period and locations, and you see right away there's, you know, a protest, and there's an aided report and there's a summons or there's a DAT with her name on it. Is that how it works, you can look someone up and just pull that up?

MS. WEISS: I don't know how the search function works.

THE COURT: Well, the plaintiffs seem to think that's doable; that's what they want you to do, because they were describing it as something easy. And your answer

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is don't worry, that will have been done already as part of the production, and you can just look in the production for it.

So, I mean, my inclination on this is to say if you want to take your chances, fine, I suppose; but if you messed up and it turns out that you could have just done a search and that name was there, and that would have been a normal part of the deposition prep process, and you didn't do it and you went forward with this deposition, then there's going to be some kind of consequence to the City for that. It seems to me it would be a lot better if it would be part of the prep process for the City, that when they have Officer Jane Doe, they look up Officer Jane Doe during this period and say, well, here's what we got on you. And they would either just forward that along with the activity logs for the plaintiffs, or if they -- you know, I suppose they could verify that it was in the production. But it would be a lot more efficient to just forward it along with the activity log information.

So it seems to me that's the sensible thing to do because you're going to have a huge down side if your big production doesn't have that. Do you understand what I'm saying, Ms. Weiss?

MS. WEISS: I do, you know. And I think perhaps a

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good solution would be, because the way that our productions work is that they go through a vendor to be prepared for production, is for us to check that they've been produced and perhaps provide the Bates numbers to plaintiffs' counsel --

THE COURT: Yes, that's fine, right, Mr. Lieb?

MS. WEISS: The only thing that -- the only catch to that might be I don't know how well the search function works on handwritten documents. So to the extent that there are handwritten documents -- and I actually don't know how much is handwritten -- I know most of it is computerized nowadays, but if there a scratch copies of things, I don't know how well it will work on handwritten documents. But to the extent that things are typewritten or, you know, entered into a computer, the search function should work pretty well.

THE COURT: So what's generating that handwritten document? Are you talking about the -- it's not the activity log, which you told me is not handwritten.

MS. WEISS: No. But perhaps a scratch copy of -- I don't even know if they do it anymore, to be honest. But they used to fill out scratch copies of arrest reports, handwritten before they entered them into the computer.

THE COURT: Okay, but those reports -- surely, the

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only reason you got them is because someone looked up Jane Doe arrests on June 2nd, or whatever it is; and then there's some PDF -- I don't know what -- that would have produced this document. No one's going around collecting paper, are they, from your office?

MS. WEISS: The paper is being collected. It's not just documents from --

THE COURT: So these aided reports, the -- I'm talking about the set that Mr. Lieb was talking about, the TRI report, the aided report --

MS. WEISS: It should all be from computer databases.

THE COURT: Okay, well, this is my point. In other words, someone had to put in a name. And that's the only reason there's paper. So I don't know why you're bringing up paper searches.

MS. WEISS: Because I just want to be completely thorough because I fear that plaintiff is going to come back and say you didn't provide a scratch copy or you didn't provide this or that or the other thing. I just want to be as thorough as I can be.

THE COURT: We're not even -- I'm not talking about your document production; that's not a topic for today. I am talking about the big document production,



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whether you did that properly. That's not what Mr. Lieb was talking about. He is talking about whether there's something that was easily generatable by you as part of your prep to this officer, like looking up, you know, the officer in this arrest database that he's talking about, and maybe this bodycam footage database and producing that to them. And your answer to that is no, we don't want to do that because we already have it. And what I'm saying to you is if there's something easy you could do, it would be a lot better if you did it as part of your prep and just sent it over to them relying on it being on the big database, because you're going to get punished if it turns out a deposition went forward and you had not put it in that July 31st production. Do you understand what I'm saying to you?

MS. WEISS: Yes, your Honor, I do understand. And, as I said, we will do the search of the database to ensure that we have provided these documents. I just want to make sure that we're doing what the Court is instructing --

THE COURT: Yes. And if it turns out you didn't and if it's not, you're going to provide the Bates numbers or whatever the number is. And if it turns out you found something as part of your prep that's not in the big

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production, you've got to produce that.

MS. WEISS: Absolutely.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Lieb, do we sort of now have a solution to this problem, at least the ones to understand what my solution is?

MR. LIEB: Yes, your Honor, I think we have a solution.

THE COURT: Okay. So does this cover the bodycam footage, as well? I know we haven't talked about the transcript yet.

MR. LIEB: Yes. You know, assuming that a similar procedure applies to evidence.com, which is the body-worn camera maintenance repository, whatever you call it, yes. And so I think what remains to be resolved is just what process is being used for the officers to identify the protests that they attended.

THE COURT: Right. Okay, and I think I'm ruling on that. And I now have the document. There starts to be huge gaps. So what I think -- so my ruling is that the officer needs to, as part of your prep, Ms. Weiss, look through their activity logs for this very brief period, which is May 28th through June 8th -- that has to be part of your prep. And then you can ask them the memory of the rest of them.

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MS. WEISS: Okay.

THE COURT: And then whatever you get as the answers has to be transmitted, you know, if not that day, the next day to the plaintiff.

MS. WEISS: Okay.

THE COURT: I mean, if the deposition's the next day, then it better be that day. But, otherwise, the next day.

MS. WEISS: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: So, Mr. Lieb, do you understand my ruling?

MR. LIEB: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Other than the -- well, I know we have the transcript, but other than that, have we done what we need to do on this?

MR. LIEB: If I may just look quickly at my notes to make sure I don't have any outstanding items?

THE COURT: Okay, that's fine.

MR. LIEB: I don't believe there are any other outstanding items on the list, your Honor, with the exception of the training.

THE COURT: Okay, so Ms. Weiss, now on the transcripts.

MS. WEISS: So as discussing during meet-and-

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confer this afternoon with plaintiffs' counsel, I wasn't sure what transcripts they were talking about. And there is an online database on nypdonline.org which lists all the training that a police officer has had. And, you know, I'm clicking on it now, for example, and I picked a random officer. And it's got --

THE COURT: I'm sorry, [indiscernible] officer?

MS. WEISS: I just clicked on a random officer, and --

THE COURT: I don't understand -- hold on. I have no idea what you're looking at.

MS. WEISS: There's an online database on a site called nypdonline.org, which is a New York City Police Department website which you can find any police officer's what they call a profile. And part of that profile is a listing of all the training classes that a police officer was given and the date of that class, in addition to that officer's rank and shield history, department awards, discipline history, the number of arrests processed. But for our purpose, I just clicked on a random Officer Santana -- there's dozens of Santanas. And there's three pages of a list of his -- of the training classes he took, starting --

THE COURT: From day one?

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MS. WEISS: Starting in -- for this officer, I don't know if it's day one for this officer.

THE COURT: No, but it includes the police academy, or is it sort of post, you know, on-the-job training?

MS. WEISS: Let's see if I can see.

THE COURT: It's a fascinating list.

MS. WEISS: Recruit training, four-wheel-drive training, property evidence --

THE COURT: This doesn't sound like the -- I mean, from what I'm looking at, it doesn't sound like the academy.

MS. WEISS: It might not be the academy training, but it's the training that the officer has certainly had since and all the classes that the officer has had since. I'm not --

THE COURT: Okay, so that's the disconnect. Mr. Lieb, you want the academy, is that it?

MR. LIEB: The principal disconnect, actually, your Honor, is that in the experience of counsel, that public document, aside from the question of whether it public relieves the City client of its discovery obligations, that document is not -- it just in practice is not complete. So when you actually compare the document

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that we're talking about that I'm referring to as the transcript with the publicly available version, you know, in preparation for this, Sow counsel went back and looked and did a side-by-side of those from another case that they had previously -- the actual transcripts are marked as confidential, so we couldn't provide them to opposing counsel and share them and discuss them in detail -- but the gist of it is just that sometimes there are officers that are just outright missing from the public database. And sometimes -- and more often than not, there are things that are on the official document that are just not on the public-facing version.

So it's the academy issue, but it's also just the completeness and reliability issue.

THE COURT: Ms. Weiss, what do you know about the burden of getting an academy transcript for an officer?

MS. WEISS: I don't know anything about it. The only thing that I know about is the public website.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. WEISS: And I'm curious, Mr. Lieb, this transcript from the academy, does that have grades on it, as well?

MR. LIEB: I do not know the answer to that question.

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THE COURT: Okay. So here's where we are. Right now it seems relevant to me because I think it's important to know about training, and they may want to ask officers about what they learned and so forth. So unless -- and, you know, the grades, I don't see that as particularly relevant. But I'm not ready to deal with that right now. I assume this is all being produced under a confidentiality order, anyway. So the City should produce it unless they can come back to me in the next day or two saying what it's going to be a problem. If it's just pushing a button and generating it for a particular deponent, it seems perfectly easy to do.

MS. WEISS: So I will find out immediately what it entails.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, if there's a problem, you need to let me know by Friday in a letter. But first talk to the other side about it before you write me.

MS. WEISS: Yes, of course.

THE COURT: So I'm ordering it produced unless I rule otherwise based on whatever the City may give me.

Have we now covered everything, Mr. Lieb?

MR. LIEB: I believe we have, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right, Ms. Weiss, have we covered everything?

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MS. WEISS: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right, so I'm ordering the agreed-upon items that were described by Mr. Lieb earlier. So I'm ordering that that should be the way we proceed with these depositions. And I made certain other rulings. And I think we're done.

Anything else, Mr. Lieb?

MR. LIEB: No. Thank you for your time, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right, Ms. Weiss, anything?

MS. WEISS: No, thank you.

THE COURT: All right, thank you, everyone. Good-bye.

(Whereupon the matter is adjourned.)



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Carole Ludwig, certify that the foregoing transcript of proceedings in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, Payne, et al. versus De Blasio, et al., docket #20cv8924, was prepared using PC-based transcription software and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Signature Carole Ludwig

Date: July 29, 2021